

**To:** R7 Daily Digest INBOX[R7\_Daily\_Digest\_INBOX@epa.gov]  
**From:** Bryan, David  
**Sent:** Mon 11/30/2015 10:25:23 PM  
**Subject:** OPA Daily Digest – 11/30/15

## **OPA Daily Digest – 11/30/15**

### **Upcoming EPA Region 7 Events by Division**

New additions noted with an asterisk

#### **RA:**

**12/2/15** – Courtesy visit with Joseph Miniace, FAA Regional Administrator. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**12/8-9/15** - Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

**12/11/15** – Kansas Farmers Union State Convention, Topeka, Kan. Contact: Kris Lancaster, 7557

**12/14/15** - Courtesy Visit with Rob Manes and John Cougher, The Nature Conservancy, Regional Office.  
Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

#### **DRA:**

**12/2/15** – Courtesy visit with Joseph Miniace, FAA Regional Administrator. Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**12/8-9/15** - Four State Directors Meeting, Regional Office. Contact: Dick Sumpter, 7661

**12/14/15** - Courtesy Visit with Rob Manes and John Cougher, The Nature Conservancy, Regional Office.  
Contact: Julia Cacho, 7071

**RA/Immediate Office**

None

**Other Events**

**AWMD**

**\*12/2/15** - Interagency Environmental Leadership Council quarterly meeting for the Bannister Federal Center complex, GSA Regional Office, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Don Lininger, 7724

**12/3/15** – Meet with Iowa Department of Natural Resources Air Quality Bureau and observe Kaizen event, Des Moines, Iowa. Contact: Heather Hamilton, 7039

**12/7/15** – Wolf Creek Nuclear Plant exercise, Burlington, Kan. Contact: Chuck Hooper, 7271

**12/8-10/15** – 2015 National Capacity Development and Operator Certification Workshop with EPA and states, Dallas, Tex. Contact: Bob Dunlevy, 7798

**12/10/15** - Mid-America Regional Council's Local Emergency Planning Committee meeting, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Fatima Ndiaye, 7383

**12/10-12/15** – U.S. Department of Agriculture Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub and Department of the Interior Joint Stakeholders Committee Meeting, Fort Collins, Colo. Contact: Amy Shields, 7396

**12/11/15** – Missouri Emergency Response Commission meeting, Jefferson City, Mo. Contact: Terri Blunk, 7013

**12/16/15** – E.O. 13650 Federal Inspector training, EPA Regional Office, Lenexa, Kan. Contact: George Hess, 7540

## **CNSL**

None

## **ECO**

**12/1/15** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**12/2/15** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**12/14/15** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**12/18/15** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**1/6/16** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

**1/11/16** – Friends of the Kaw, Wyandotte High School, Kansas, Kan. Contact: Pamela Houston, 7699

## **ENST**

**11/30/15-12/04/15** – Office of Research and Development NetZero Green Infrastructure/Water Reuse Research site visit, Ft. Riley, Kan. Contact: Brenda Groskinsky, 7188.

## **PLMG**

**11/30-12/3/15** – State/EPA Process Improvement Network Training & Meeting; Des Moines, IA. Contact: Wendy Lubbe, 7551; Jonathan Cooper, 7287; or Katie Howard, 7861.

## **RA/OPA**

**\*12/8/15** – Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) Radioisotope Environmental Impact Statement public meeting and open house, Columbia, Mo. Contact: David Bryan, 7433

## **SUPR**

**12/1-3/15** – National Removal Managers meeting in Leesburg, Va. Contact: Ken Buchholz, 7473.

**12/3/15** – FEMA Training and Exercise Planning meeting with regional agency partners, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: David Williams, 7625.

**12/10/15** – VTC with EPA HQ and Federal Emergency Management Agency to discuss ESF-10 briefing to Incident Management Assistance Teams, Regional Emergency Operations Center, Regional Office. Contact: Dave Williams, 7625.

**12/10/15** – Meeting with Nebraska Department of Environmental Quality to discuss exit strategy for 10th St. site, Hastings, Neb. Contact: Scott Marquess, 7131.

**12/16-17/15** – FEMA Regional Incident Steering Committee (RISC) meeting at Region 7 Federal Emergency Management Agency, Kansas City, Mo. Contact: Dave Williams, 7625.

**12/14-18/15** — Removal assessment at the Citizens Gas & Electric Former Manufactured Gas Plant (FMGP) site in Council Bluffs, Iowa. Contact: Kevin Larson, 7808.

## **WWPD**

**11/30-12/4/15** – Visiting Public Water Systems of Santee and Winnebago Tribes, Sioux City, Iowa. Contact: Kim Burr, 7069

**12/8-10/15** – 2015 National Capacity Development and Operator Certification Workshop with EPA and states, Dallas, Tex. Contact: Bob Dunlevy, 7798

**12/10-12/15** – U.S. Department of Agriculture Northern Plains Regional Climate Hub and Department of the Interior Joint Stakeholders Committee Meeting, Fort Collins, Colo. Contact: Amy Shields, 7396

**Congressional Inquiries:**

**Rep. Ann Wagner** – 11/9/15 – Letter – Questions about West Lake Landfill site. Due: 11/24/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**Sen. Deb Fischer** – 11/5/15 – Letter – Questions about Region 7 investigations on enforcement of lead-based paint regulations in Nebraska. Due: 11/19/15. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (closed)

**State Government Inquiries:**

None

**Press Inquiries:**

**KIOS 91.5, Omaha Public Radio** – Cheril Lee – 10/19/15 – Requests interview about the newly award Environmental Justice Small Grant to Together Incorporated of Metropolitan Omaha. Contact: LaTonya Sanders, 7555 (open)

**KSDK-TV Ch. 5** – Jason Aubry – 11/19/15 – Requested statement from Region 7 regarding legislation to transfer authority at West Lake Landfill from EPA to U.S. Army Corps of Engineers FUSRAP. Contact: Ben Washburn, 7364 (open)

**Lincoln (Neb.) Journal-Star** – Nick Bergen - 11/30/15 – Question regarding how the RFS media call will

work. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

**Iowa Agribusiness** – 11/30/15 – Question regarding how to join the RFS media call. Contact: Chris Whitley, 7394 (closed)

**Fleet News Daily** – David Field – Called to thank us for including their publications in the news release distribution. Contact: David Bryan, 7433 (closed)

#### **Press Releases:**

Link to all R7 press releases: <http://go.usa.gov/Qx5>

None

#### **Fact Sheets:**

Link to all R7 fact sheets: <http://www.epa.gov/region7/factsheets>

None

#### **Environmental Stories:**

**World Socialist Web Site - Manhattan Project fallout: Nuclear waste health catastrophe in St. Louis, Missouri** - 11/27/15 - Over the course of almost 70 years, former and current residents from the northern suburbs of St. Louis, Missouri have struggled with the devastating health consequences from a series of nuclear dump sites. <http://www.wsws.org/en/articles/2015/11/27/nucl-n27.html>

**Waynesville Daily Guide - Nixon wants settlement money sent to lead-damaged areas** - 11/29/15 - Gov. Jay Nixon this week called on a state agency to use settlement funds to restore areas of southeastern Missouri that were damaged by lead contamination, a move praised by local officials and state lawmakers who for months questioned why money was going to projects in places untouched by lead. <http://www.waynesvilledailyguide.com/article/20151129/NEWS/151129089>

**Des Moines Register - Legislature under pressure on water quality** - 11/28/15 - The battle over improving Iowa's water quality — and how to pay for the billions of dollars it likely would cost — is expected to be one of the most contentious issues the Legislature will face in the coming year, state leaders say. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/2015/11/27/time-running-out-legislature-water-quality/75918486/>

**Des Moines Register - Northey: Iowa saw \$325 million in water quality funding** - 11/30/15 - Iowa saw \$325 million in water quality spending through state and federal programs last year, said Bill Northey, Iowa's secretary of agriculture. The bulk of the spending -- \$254 million -- came from federal conservation and water quality programs. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/2015/11/30/325-million-invested-in-iowa-water-quality/76562810/>

**Sioux City (Iowa) Journal - Two Lyon County communities explore natural gas utility** - 11/30/15 - Voters in Larchwood and Lester approved referendums that allow the two Lyon County cities to establish municipal gas utilities. <http://bit.ly/1PVWQsP>

**Quad-City Times - Cover crops continue to grow in popularity** - 11/28/15 - During a drive through the country this time of year, a person may observe fields with lush green growth and wonder what crop this might be at the end of the growing season. The field is probably one of several types of cover crops becoming more popular in farmers' ongoing efforts to keep nutrients in the soil as part of Iowa's aggressive water quality improvement strategy. [http://qctimes.com/news/local/muscatine/cover-crops-continue-to-grow-in-popularity/article\\_3ed01860-35b8-5269-9021-298b89977a05.html](http://qctimes.com/news/local/muscatine/cover-crops-continue-to-grow-in-popularity/article_3ed01860-35b8-5269-9021-298b89977a05.html)

**Dubuque (Iowa) Telegraph Herald - The ground work: Farmers preserve and prepare soil through planting of cover crops** - 11/29/15 - Prior to the recent large snowfall, green stood amid harvested, tri-state area fallow farm fields in late November and into the winter. The cover crop offers a way to control erosion and serves as a feed for livestock. Experts say the practice has been increasing through the years. Last year, more than 400,000 acres in Iowa held cover crops. [http://www.thonline.com/news/business/article\\_e5979cf2-7d68-5603-827e-7e8fd1257dee.html](http://www.thonline.com/news/business/article_e5979cf2-7d68-5603-827e-7e8fd1257dee.html)

**Des Moines Register (column) - Lawsuit aims to reduce ag pollution** - 11/29/15 - Water utilities and Iowans who draw water independent of public utilities should no longer be put at risk and placed fully on the hook for solving a problem created by industry upstream. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2015/11/29/lawsuit-aims-reduce-ag-pollution/76456224/>

**Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette - Pleasant Creek Lake near Palo getting \$3.5 million makeover** - 11/30/15 - The \$3.5 million restoration of Linn County's largest and most popular lake, scheduled to be completed next year, will continue until February 2017, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources has

announced. <http://www.thegazette.com/subject/sports/outdoors/pleasant-creek-lake-near-palo-getting-35-million-makeover-20151130>

**Ag Professional - EPA issues memo on OSHA PSM retail exemption** - 11/30/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency issued a memorandum to all Regional Administrators and Offices to establish policy on the effect of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's change to the retail exemption under the Process Safety Management. <http://www.agprofessional.com/news/epa-issues-memo-osha-psm-retail-exemption>

**Agri-view - EPA seeks manure-recycling projects** - 11/30/15 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is partnering with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, pork and dairy producers, as well as environmental and scientific experts to launch a Nutrient Recycling Challenge. The competition seeks to develop affordable technologies that recycle nutrients from livestock waste. [http://www.agriview.com/briefs/dairy/epa-seeks-manure-recycling-projects/article\\_4c903eac-9289-56b5-83ef-92e2d43b3815.html](http://www.agriview.com/briefs/dairy/epa-seeks-manure-recycling-projects/article_4c903eac-9289-56b5-83ef-92e2d43b3815.html)

**Des Moines Register - What to prescribe for Iowa's eroding topsoil?** - 11/27/15 - Growing up, Ann Wolf didn't frequent her grandfather's eastern Iowa farm. But over the past 17 years, Wolf's relationship with the land has changed. No longer is the Miles farm simply a land investment. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2015/11/27/what-prescribe-iowas-eroding-topsoil/76447188/>

**Associated Press (Kan.) - Hogs, residents compete for Kansas county's water supply** - 11/29/15 - Only 1,200 people live in Kansas' smallest county, where using irrigation to quench thirsty crops is no longer an option for many because the water source underneath this flat, arid prairie is nearly exhausted due to decades of overuse. <http://www.shawneedispatch.com/news/2015/nov/29/hogs-residents-compete-kansas-countys-water-supply/>

Also Salina (Iowa) Journal, Kansas City Business Journal, KSHB Channel 41 Kansas City, Baldwin City (Kan.) Signal, Las Vegas (Nev.) Sun

**Forbes - Disruption Derailed: The Utility Death Spiral Myth (opinion)** - 11/25/15 - In January 2013, a study commissioned by the Edison Electric Institute predicted that distributed generation would disrupt the electric utility industry. The study, Disruptive Challenges, argued that distributed generation would trigger a death spiral for utilities driven by revenue erosion, declining profits, rising costs and weakening credit metrics. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/williampentland/2015/11/25/disruption-derailed-the-utility-death-spiral-myth/>

**Dubuque (Iowa) Telegraph-Herald - Alliant announces plan to close Dubuque Generating Station in 2017** - 11/30/15 - Dubuque's power generating station now is set to close in June 2017, according to an Alliant Energy official. Meanwhile, City of Dubuque officials continue to keep an eye on the property.



[http://www.thonline.com/news/tri-state/article\\_8115e6b9-37a8-539b-bfc9-82d904c97c70.html](http://www.thonline.com/news/tri-state/article_8115e6b9-37a8-539b-bfc9-82d904c97c70.html)

**Cedar Rapids (Iowa) Gazette - Alliant Energy invests in infrastructure** - 11/29/15 - As Cedar Rapids and surrounding communities added homes and businesses over the past century, Alliant Energy's Iowa electric utility predecessors constructed dozens of "neighborhood" electrical substations.

<http://www.thegazette.com/subject/news/business/alliant-energy-invests-in-infrastructure-20151129>

**Vox - Clean energy tax credits mostly go to the affluent. Is there a better way?** - 11/24/15 - One of the main ways US policy encourages the uptake of new clean energy and energy efficiency technologies is through the use of tax credits. There are tax credits for qualified windows, boilers, air conditioners, insulation, and more. Some new research brings troubling news about those tax credits. To put it bluntly: They are highly inequitable. Most of the money goes to relatively affluent consumers.

<http://www.vox.com/2015/11/24/9792474/energy-tax-credits-inequitable>

**Bloomberg - Operators of U.S. nuclear power plants want to extend life to 80 years** - 11/29/15 - The United States is set to become the first nation to decide whether it's safe to operate nuclear power plants for 80 years, twice as long as initially allowed. <http://www.startribune.com/operators-of-u-s-nuclear-power-plants-want-to-extend-life-to-80-years/358293621/>

**New York Times - Short Answers to Hard Questions About Climate Change** - 11/28/15 - The issue can be overwhelming. The science is complicated. Predictions about the fate of the planet carry endless caveats and asterisks. We get it. And so, as the Paris climate talks get underway, we've provided quick answers to often-asked questions about climate change. <http://nyti.ms/1NBc6Lx>

**The Atlantic - Why the Economic Fates of America's Cities Diverged** - 11/28/15 - Places like St. Louis and New York City were once similarly prosperous. Then, 30 years ago, the United States turned its back on the policies that had been encouraging parity.

<http://www.theatlantic.com/business/archive/2015/11/cities-economic-fates-diverge/417372/>

**BNA - Researchers Find Increased Emissions From Coal Trains** - 11/27/15 - Researchers at the University of Washington found that uncovered coal trains emit almost twice as much particulate matter on average than regular diesel-powered freight trains.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=79729599&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0h5w8z2z2&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=79729599&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0h5w8z2z2&split=0)

**BNA - OMB Reviewing Final Lead Paint Rule** - 11/27/15 - The White House Office of Management and Budget is reviewing a final Environmental Protection Agency rule that would amend the training certification and other requirements of the agency's lead-based paint program.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=79729627&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0h5z0b2g0&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=79729627&vname=dennotallissues&jd=a0h5z0b2g0&split=0)

**BNB - 81 Amendments Proposed for House Energy Bill - 11/27/15** - Measures that would repeal the renewable fuel standard, allow crude oil exports to Mexico and require a federal study on the volatility of oil shipped by rail are among the 81 amendments proposed for House energy legislation slated for the floor the week of Nov. 30.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=79729633&vname=dennotallissues&id=a0h5z0r6k5&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=79729633&vname=dennotallissues&id=a0h5z0r6k5&split=0)

**BNB - Business Said to Lack Tools for Long-Term Climate Planning - 11/27/15** - Several businesses already have factored the short-term effect of a changing climate into their decision making, but few have incorporated long-term considerations into their plans, often citing a lack of readily available federal data and tools, a White House advisory panel said.

[http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split\\_display.adp?fedfid=79729617&vname=dennotallissues&id=a0h5y9x8v2&split=0](http://news.bna.com/deln/DELNWB/split_display.adp?fedfid=79729617&vname=dennotallissues&id=a0h5y9x8v2&split=0)

## **Renewable Fuels Standard**

**Des Moines Register - EPA approves lower ethanol increase than 2007 law - 11/30/15** - The Obama administration is requiring more ethanol be blended into the country's gasoline compared with a proposal earlier this year, but the increase falls short of the aggressive targets set by Congress nearly a decade ago. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/politics/2015/11/30/epa-ethanol-requirement-for-fuel-supply/76560120/>

**Iowa Renewable Fuels Association – Final RFS Volumes Hurt Consumers, Fuel Choice and Farmers | EPA Ignores Real World Data from Iowa, Other Fuel Choice Leaders – 11/30/15** - Today the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the final renewable fuel targets for 2015 and 2016 under the federal Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS), setting the final RFS levels well-below the levels called for by Congress in the law. As a result, consumers will face fewer choices and higher fuel prices, while farmers and rural America will continue to confront difficult economic times. "Today's announcement by the EPA was a gut punch for consumers and farmers," stated Iowa Renewable Fuels Association (IRFA) Executive Director Monte Shaw. <http://iowarfa.org/2015/11/final-rfs-volumes-hurt-consumers-fuel-choice-and-farmers/>

**Agriculture.com - EPA Raises RFS Volume Requirements - 11/30/15** - On Monday, the Environmental Protection Agency announced raising the Renewable Fuels Standard, opening the window for more corn to be used for ethanol production.

However, representatives of the renewable fuels industry remain unsettled with the EPA's decision today. [http://www.agriculture.com/news/policy/epa-raises-rfs-volume-requirements\\_4-ar51392](http://www.agriculture.com/news/policy/epa-raises-rfs-volume-requirements_4-ar51392)

**National Corn Growers Association (release) - EPA's Final Rule A Step Forward For Ethanol - 11/30/15** - "While we are pleased to see the EPA take a step forward and revise its original proposal, the

fact remains that any reduction in the statutory amount will have a negative impact on our economy, our energy security, and the environment. It is unfortunate that Big Oil's campaign of misinformation continues to carry weight in the court of public opinion, and in this decision. <http://ncga.com/news-and-resources/news-stories/article/2015/11/epas-final-rule-a-step-forward-for-ethanol>

**National Farmer's Union (release) - NFU: EPA's RFS Targets Compound Damage to Family Farmers and Rural America, Undermine Administration's Efforts to Mitigate Climate Change - 11/30/15** - National Farmers Union (NFU) President Roger Johnson today sharply criticized the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for issuing final volume targets today that were well below their statutory levels, further damaging investment in the renewable fuel sector and undermining the Obama administration's efforts to combat climate change. <http://www.nfu.org/nfu-epas-rfs-targets-compound-damage-to-family-farmers-and-rural-america-undermine-administrations-efforts-to-mitigate-climate-change/3750>

**Ethanol Producer (blog) - Industry making positive progress, even as it waits - 10/30/15** - There may be speed bumps in the road ahead, yes, and the ethanol industry will continue to change and evolve, certainly. But this industry has been through that before and it will make it through again. <http://www.ethanolproducer.com/blog/article/2015/11/blog-industry-making-positive-progress-even-as-it-waits>

**Biotechnology Industry Organization (release) - BIO Statement on EPA Final Rule for 2014, 2015 and 2016 Renewable Fuel Standards - 11/30/15** - The final rule for the 2014, 2015 and 2016 Renewable Fuel Standards (RFS), issued today by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), is an unnecessary, unlawful about face for a program that was successfully driving development of cleaner biofuel technologies and reduction of U.S. greenhouse gas emissions. <http://www.bio.org/media/press-release/bio-statement-epas-final-rule-2014-2015-and-2016-renewable-fuel-standards>

**The Progressive Farmer - Corn-Based Ethanol Below Statute; EPA Raises Overall Biofuels Levels - 11/30/15** - The much-anticipated, three-year Renewable Fuel Standard volumes released Monday came in below overall volumes set in the 2007 law but higher than EPA proposed back in April, and include corn-based ethanol volumes below the statutory cap of 15 billion gallons. <http://www.dtnprogressivefarmer.com/dtnag/common/link.do;jsessionid=7469EFC8478CD9E09F02717F7A993EB5.agfree>

**Iowa Rural Radio/Renewable Fuels Association (release) – EPA's final RFS rule puts future of biofuels and Climate policy in hands of oil industry – 10/30/15** - RFA President and CEO Bob Dinneen released the following statement: "EPA's decision today turns our nation's most successful energy policy on its head. When EPA released its proposed RFS rule in May, the agency claimed it was attempting to get the program back on track. Today's decision, however, fails to do that. <http://ruralradio.com/agricultural/epas-final-rfs-rule-puts-future-of-biofuels-climate-policy-in-hands-of-oil-industry/>

**National Chicken Council (release) - EPA Increases RFS Volumes, Dealing Blow to Chicken Producers, Consumers** – 11/30/15 - The EPA has raised the implied corn mandate over the three years by more than 1.5 billion gallons and has set the 2016 ethanol mandate at a level beyond the 10 percent blendwall limits. "EPA's action will cost consumers at the pump and on the plate by effectively raising fuel and food prices," said National Chicken Council President Mike Brown.

<http://www.nationalchickencouncil.org/epa-increases-rfs-volumes-dealing-blow-to-chicken-producers-consumers/>

**EIN News – Poet Comments on EPA Rule (release) – 11/30/15 - POET CEO Jeff Broin commented today on the EPA's Renewable Volume Obligation rule. "The EPA volumes announced today are a move in the right direction, and they correctly call the oil industry's bluff about our ability to surpass 10 percent ethanol use in the U.S. [http://www.einnews.com/pr\\_news/299530133/poet-comments-on-epa-rule](http://www.einnews.com/pr_news/299530133/poet-comments-on-epa-rule)**

**USDA (release) - Statement from Secretary Tom Vilsack on Finalization of the Renewable Fuel Standard** – 10/30/15 - Today, Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack made the following statement regarding the Environmental Protection Agency's finalization of the Renewable Fuel Standard volume requirements: "The rule released today is a positive step forward providing for continued growth in all parts of the Renewable Fuel Standard—advanced, biodiesel, cellulosic, and conventional—building on the Obama Administration's and USDA's commitment to biofuels and American-grown renewable energy."

<http://www.usda.gov/wps/portal/usda/usdahome?contentid=2015/11/0330.xml>

**National Retail Federation - Chain Restaurants Say Years-Late EPA Decision Shows Corn Ethanol Mandate Cannot Be Fixed** – 10/30/15 - Today's announcement, which is two years late, demonstrates once and for all that the EPA cannot fix the failed Renewable Fuel Standard. As expected, the EPA has once again bowed to political pressure from special interests and ignored the widespread harm caused by the RFS. - See more at: <https://nrf.com/media/press-releases/chain-restaurants-say-years-late-epa-decision-shows-corn-ethanol-mandate-cant>

**U.S. Senate Committee on Environment & Public Works - Inhofe Statement on EPA's Announced RVO Levels for the RFS** – 11/30/15 - U.S. Sen. Jim Inhofe (R-Okla.), chairman of the U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works (EPW) Committee, released the following statement today regarding the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) final rule for the Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) volume requirements for 2014, 2015, and 2016: "The Renewable Fuel Standard as a whole is remarkably flawed. The premise of this program was based on a number of assumptions that no longer reflect reality, like gasoline demand." <http://www.epw.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases-republican?ID=E9689075-3BBF-4C61-A832-BEA5ACAAA9B8>

**Associated Press - EPA boosts amount of ethanol in gasoline supply** - 11/30/15 - The Obama administration is boosting the amount of corn-based ethanol and other renewable fuels in the U.S. gasoline supply despite sustained opposition by an unusual alliance of oil companies, environmentalists and some GOP presidential candidates.

<http://bigstory.ap.org/article/314d961f6b7e43feb4932a2350c4a833/epa-boosts-amount-ethanol-gasoline-supply>

**Wall Street Journal - U.S. Scales Back Ethanol Quotas for Gasoline** – 10/30/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency Monday issued final regulations that ease the annual requirements for ethanol in gasoline, a response to market restraints and other conditions that are preventing the Obama administration from meeting goals laid out in a 2007 law. <http://www.wsj.com/articles/u-s-scales-back-ethanol-quotas-for-gasoline-1448917493>

**Reuters - EPA finalizes 2016 renewables target at 18.1 bln gallons** - 11/30/15 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wants energy companies to blend 18.1 gallons of biofuels into the nation's fuel supply next year, more than in a proposal it laid out in May, it said in announcing final rules on renewables use for 2014-16 on Monday. <http://af.reuters.com/article/energyOilNews/idAFnN9N0S50020151130>

**Washington Examiner - Ethanol in gasoline to rise, but not as much as Congress wanted** - 11/30/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency will raise the required amount of biofuel required to be in the nation's fuel supply next year but will keep the amount below levels required by Congress. <http://www.washingtonexaminer.com/ethanol-in-gas-to-rise-misses-congress-mark/article/2577287>

**Washington Post - An embattled EPA raises biofuels volumes for 2016** - 11/30/15 - On Monday, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at last released its policy in an increasingly contentious area — the amount of renewable fuels or biofuels that must be blended into the nation's overall fuel supply. The agency decided to increase the levels of renewable fuels that it had previously proposed in June, requiring over 18 billion gallons overall for 2016. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/energy-environment/wp/2015/11/30/an-embattled-epa-raises-biofuels-volumes-for-2016/>

**Greenwire - EPA ramps up blending requirements in final RFS** - 11/30/15 - U.S. EPA will raise the annual blending requirements for biofuels in 2016, partially triggering a statutory provision that will send the agency back to the drawing board on how to administer the renewable fuel standard. <http://www.eenews.net/greenwire/stories/1060028679>

**Politico - EPA scales back ethanol mandate in gasoline** - 11/30/15 - The Obama administration is scaling back the federal mandate for using ethanol in gasoline — a loss for the corn industry that could scramble political calculations in the Iowa caucuses. <http://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/breaking-news-epa-scales-back-ethanol-mandate-in-gasoline-216270>

**Politico - Obama curbs ethanol in blow to corn growers** – 11/30/15 - The Obama administration delivered a blow to the corn industry on Monday, easing the amount of ethanol the nation must consume

below the levels Congress had set nearly a decade ago — and potentially laying a political stumbling block for Hillary Clinton in Iowa. <http://www.politico.com/story/2015/11/breaking-news-epa-scales-back-ethanol-mandate-in-gasoline-216270>

**Washington Times - Obama's EPA ignores congressional mandate for ethanol in gasoline -**  
11/30/15 - The Obama administration on Monday raised the amount of ethanol and other renewable fuels that must be blended into the nation's gas supply, but the highly anticipated rules still fall far short of congressional mandates and raise new questions about the viability of the controversial Renewable Fuel Standard moving forward. <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/nov/30/obamas-epa-ignores-congressional-mandate-ethanol-g/>

**The Hill - EPA unveils contentious ethanol fuel standard –** 11/30/15 - The Obama administration will increase the amount of biofuels that is required to be mixed into the gasoline supply next year, though the levels still miss what lawmakers intended when they wrote the law. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/261526-epa-unveils-contentious-ethanol-fuel-standard>

**Environmental Working Group (opinion) - Earth To Paris: Corn Ethanol Is A Climate Disaster -**  
11/30/15 - Corn ethanol, once thought of as a way for the U.S. to cut carbon pollution, is conspicuously absent from the emissions reduction plan the White House submitted ahead of the global climate conference in Paris. The plan would reduce U.S. carbon emissions by 28 percent from 2005 levels, but it didn't even mention corn ethanol, or the federal mandate known as the Renewable Fuel Standard. <http://www.ewg.org/agmag/2015/11/earth-paris-corn-ethanol-climate-disaster>

**Politico - Ethanol rule expected today -** 11/30/15 - EPA is expected to roll out its controversial new mandates under the Renewable Fuel Standard, and you can expect anything less than the full 15 billion gallons of ethanol to poison the biofuels crowd to the rule. <http://www.politico.com/tipsheets/morning-agriculture/2015/11/ethanol-rule-expected-today-211495>

**Ethanol Producer (blog) - Industry making positive progress, even as it waits -** 10/30/15 - There may be speed bumps in the road ahead, yes, and the ethanol industry will continue to change and evolve, certainly. But this industry has been through that before and it will make it through again. <http://www.ethanolproducer.com/blog/article/2015/11/blog-industry-making-positive-progress-even-as-it-waits>

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**American Spectator (blog) - LAST CALL FOR ETHANOL: Bad for the environment and increasingly bad for politics** - 11/30/15 - A federal program, once launched, is impossible to kill. It doesn't matter if the scheme wastes money. It doesn't matter if the program doesn't work. It doesn't even matter if the program does the very opposite of what it is supposed to do. Every government program enters the world with an army of fairy godmothers prepared to fend off any effort to cut the cord — hence the staying power of ethanol. <http://spectator.org/articles/64788/last-call-ethanol>

**KMA Radio, Shenandoah, Iowa - Big day on Monday for ethanol** - 11/28/15 - The Obama Administration deadline for setting three years' worth of renewable fuel quotas is Monday and the ethanol industry is fighting an air war to try to influence the decision. [http://www.kmaland.com/news/big-day-on-monday-for-ethanol/article\\_97c148cc-9646-11e5-90e7-5f21d6e34c77.html](http://www.kmaland.com/news/big-day-on-monday-for-ethanol/article_97c148cc-9646-11e5-90e7-5f21d6e34c77.html)

**WNAX Radio, Yankton, S.D. - EPA Set to Release Renewable Fuels Mandated Levels** - 11/30/15 - The Environmental Protection Agency is expected to release Renewable Fuel Standard volume levels this week, maybe as early as Monday. Nebraska Ethanol Board Administrator Todd Sneller is hoping the agency raises the renewable fuels mandate levels to the statutory requirements. - See more at: <http://wnax.com/news/180081-epa-set-to-release-renewable-fuels-mandated-levels/>

**AgriNews - Potential seen for growth in biofuels from corn stover** - 11/29/15 - Making biofuel from corn stover could become economically viable for farmers with government support and, therefore, lead to a major shift in crop rotation practices favoring more continuous corn plantings, Purdue University researchers conclude. <http://www.agrinews-pubs.com/Content/News/Latest-News/Article/Potential-seen-for-growth-in-biofuels-from-corn-stover-18/6/13699>

**Des Moines Register (opinion) - Hypocrisy: Obama's trip to Paris** - 11/28/15 - President Obama will likely not discuss the fact that his own administration is gutting the RFS, the one piece of legislation proven to reduce oil consumption, which is not only a principal cause of carbon pollution but also, as the terrorist attacks in Paris serves as a reminder, a matter of national security. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/opinion/columnists/iowa-view/2015/11/28/hypocrisy-obamas-trip-paris/76345772/>

**St. Louis Post-Dispatch (guest editorial) - Corn ethanol has failed by virtually every measure** - 11/29/15 - Only in the skewed reality of an industry-funded special interest lobbying group could a government-mandated policy forcing an artificial market for corn ethanol on the American public be passed off as a conservative, free market policy. [http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/corn-ethanol-has-failed-by-virtually-every-measure/article\\_9a1e5838-45b2-563e-943a-c7e130890381.html](http://www.stltoday.com/news/opinion/corn-ethanol-has-failed-by-virtually-every-measure/article_9a1e5838-45b2-563e-943a-c7e130890381.html)

**Des Moines Register - Push to make ethanol a player in presidential race** - 11/27/15 - Iowa's billion-dollar ethanol industry is turning up the heat on presidential candidates — trying to leverage support as the EPA prepares to release a new renewable fuel policy that could be critical to the alternative fuel's viability. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/agriculture/2015/11/27/election-ethanol-race/75660964/>

**Subsidies For Fossil Fuels: Why The Confusion? (blog)** - 11/30/15 - In any debate about energy, there seems to be a lot more sloganeering than real analysis or data. A great example is the way advocates for renewable energy always defend subsidies for wind, solar and electric vehicles by saying that petroleum also receives subsidies. <http://www.forbes.com/sites/michaelyllynch/2015/11/30/subsidies-for-energy-1-why-the-confusion/>

## **Paris Talks**

**Des Moines Register - Obama urges climate deal as U.N. summit opens in tense Paris** - 11/30/15 - President Obama urged his fellow world leaders on Monday to reach a landmark deal to curb global warming before it dooms the planet. "I come here personally as the leader of world's biggest economy and second biggest emitter to say that America not only acknowledges its role in climate change but embraces doing something about it," Obama said. <http://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/news/world/2015/11/30/climate-talks-kick-off-france/76551062/>

**The Hill (blog) - Leaders have failed us on climate** - 11/30/15 - This week, world leaders including President Obama will convene in Paris to hammer out a global agreement on climate change. After two decades of climate negotiations and little progress, many view the Paris summit as our last chance to avert the most catastrophic impacts of global warming. The talks will fall short of expectations. <http://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/energy-environment/261225-leaders-have-failed-us-on-climate>

**New York Times - Paris Deal Would Herald an Important First Step on Climate Change** - 11/29/15 - President Obama and more than 100 world leaders will convene with thousands of diplomats on Monday on the outskirts of Paris to open two weeks of intense negotiations aimed at forging an accord that could begin to avert the most devastating effects of global warming and redefine the economy of the 21st century. Here is a guide to what is at stake. <http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/30/us/politics/paris-climate-talks.html>

**Inside Climate - Sputtering Corporate Effort to Save Forests Highlights a Big Issue for Paris Talks** - 11/26/15 - Two new reports underscore how important Paris climate talks could be for accelerating efforts to end deforestation, a major contributor to climate change. <http://insideclimatenews.org/news/24112015/tropical-forests-deforestation-climate-change-global->



warming-paris-talks

**New York Times - Obama, at Conference, Says U.S. Is Partly to Blame for Climate Change -**

11/30/15 - President Obama told world leaders who gathered northeast of Paris on Monday for a climate conference that the United States is at least partly to blame for the life-threatening damage that environmental change has wrought, and he urged world leaders to join him in fixing the problem.

<http://www.nytimes.com/2015/12/01/world/europe/obama-climate-conference-cop21.html>

**Associated Press - Hamstrung by Congress, Obama tries to clinch climate pact - 11/28/15 -**

President Barack Obama is trying to negotiate a legacy-making climate change pact this coming week in Paris with one hand tied behind his back. Congress can't even agree whether global warming is real.

<http://www.kansascity.com/news/article46909170.html>

**Associated Press - Air pollution in Beijing hits hazardous levels - 11/29/15 -** Air pollution in Beijing reached hazardous levels on Saturday as smog engulfed large parts of China despite efforts to clean up the foul air. At noon, the U.S. Embassy in Beijing reported the level of the poisonous, tiny particles of PM2.5 at 391 micrograms per cubic meter. The World Health Organization considers the safe level at 25 micrograms per cubic meter of the particulates. <http://www.kwwl.com/story/30619189/air-pollution-in-beijing-hits-hazardous-levels>

**The Hill - Obama eyes legacy-defining climate pact - 11/29/15 -** President Obama heads to Paris Monday seeking to clinch an international climate pact that would help define his legacy. But major obstacles stand in the way of that goal, including the dispute over whether the document will be legally binding for all the countries participating or whether political pressure would be the main enforcement mechanism. <http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/261354-obama-eyes-legacy-defining-climate-pact>

**The New Republic - The Paris Climate Change Talks Represent a Critical Moment for the World -**

11/29/15 - For much of the past year, the U.N. climate talks in Paris were viewed as something of a global party. Finally, after years of failed negotiations, world leaders had some signs of progress they could point to that showed they were finally taking the issue of climate change seriously.

<https://newrepublic.com/article/124596/paris-climate-change-talks-represent-critical-moment-world>

**Outer Places (blog) - Why Climate Change Is a Threat to Our National Security - 11/29/15 -** As we near the Paris climate change talks beginning on November 30th, it is important to keep in mind that climate change is not just a threat to polar bear habitats, but also a threat to national security.

<http://www.outerplaces.com/science/item/10513-why-climate-change-is-a-threat-to-our-national-security>

**Reuters (blog) - The American energy story Obama won't tell the world - 11/29/15 -** President

Barack Obama is poised to repeat his history of weak-handed negotiations on the world stage when nearly 200 countries gather in Paris on Monday to consider an international response to climate change.  
<http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2015/11/28/the-american-energy-story-obama-wont-tell-the-world/>